

"Punch" on Prince Arthur.
The young gentleman who arrived in Washington on Saturday was born, as is very well known, May 1, 1850. What may not be so well known is that Thackeray, being at that time a contributor to *Punch*, composed, in the guise of "Policeman X," a ballad upon his nativity, which is herewith appended:

By a Gentleman of the Foot Guards (Blue).

I paced upon my beat
With steady step and slow;
All hupbanddown of Ranelagh street;
Ran ligh st., Pimlico.

While marching hupbanddown
Upon that fair May morn,
Beold the booming cannons sound
A royal child is born!

The Ministers of State
Then presly I saw,
They galloped to the Pallis gate
In carriages and for.

With anxious looks intent
Before the gate they stop,
There comes the good Lord President
And there the Archbishop.

Lord John he next elights,
And who comes here in haste?
'Tis the hero of one undared fight,
The Caudle for to taste.

Then Mrs. Lily, the nurse,
Towards them steps with joy;
Says the brave old Duke, "Come tell to us
Is it a gal or a boy?"

Says Mrs. L. to the Duke,
"Your Grace, it is a Prince."
And at the nurse's bold rebuke
He did both laugh and wince.

He views, with pleasant look,
This pooty flower of May;
Then says the venerable Duke,
"Egad! it's my birthday."

By memory backards borne,
Peraps his thoughts did stray
To that old place where he was born
Upon the first of May.

Peraps he did recal
The ancient towers of Trim;
And county Meath and Dangan Hall
They did revisit him.

I phansy of him so
His good old thoughts employin;
Fourscore years and one ago
Beside the flouin' Boyne.

His father praps he sees,
Most muscled of Lord's,
A playing madrigal and glees
Upon the Arpschords.

Just phansy this old Ero
Upon his mother's knee;
Did ever lady in this land
Ave greater sons than she?

And I shoudn't be surpris'd,
While this was in his mind,
If a drop there twinkled in his eyes
Of unfamiliar brind.

To Hapsley Ouse next day
Drives up a Brooch and for,
A gracious prince sita in that shay
(I meation him with Hor):

They ring upon the bell,
The porter shows his Ed
(He fought at Waterloo as vell,
And wears a veskit red).

To see that carriage come,
The people round it press:
"And is the gallant Duke at one?"
"Your Royal Igness, yes."

He steps from out the Brooch,
And in the gate is gone,
And X, although the people push,
Says very kind, "Move hon."

The Royal Prince unto
The gallant Duke did say,
"Dear Duke, my little son and you
Was born the self-same day."

"The lady of the land,
My wife and Sovrin, dear,
It is by her hogst command
I wait upon you here."

"That lady is as well
As can expected be;
And to your Grace she bid me tell
This gracious message free."

"That offering of our race,
Whom yesterday you see,
To show our honor for your Grace,
Prince Arthur he shall be."

"That name it rhymes to fame,
All Europe knows the sound,
And I couldn't find a better name
If you'd give me twenty pound."

"King Arthur had his knights
That gird his table round,
But you have a hundred fights
Will mach 'em I'll be bound."

"You fought with Bonypart,
And likewise Tippoo Saib;
I name you, then, with all my heart,
The Godsie of this babe."

That Prince his leave was took,
His interview was done,
So let us wish the good old Duke
Good luck of his god-son.

And wish him years of joy
In this our time of schism,
And hope he'll hear the royal boy
His little catechism.

And my pooty little Prince,
That's come our arts to cheer,
Let me my loyal powers ewince
A welcome on your ere,

And the Poit-Laureat's crown'd,
I think, in some respex,
Egstemely shootable might be found
For honest Pleaseman X.

The St. Petersburg Public Li-

brary.

The Imperial Public Library of St. Petersburg has recently published its report for the year 1868, a volume containing upwards of 250 pages. It is chiefly devoted to a detailed description of various collections of MSS.

which were acquired during that year. The most important of these is a collection of old Slavonic MSS., which was formed by A. F. Hilferding in the year 1857, during the course of his travels in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Old Servia, and which he has presented to the library. Among the others are a collection of MSS. in various Oriental languages, purchased from the heirs of Count N. J. Simonich; and another of Kurd MSS., which was sold to the library by A. D. Jaba, formerly Russian consul at Erzerum. The report gives a full description of 101 MSS. belonging to the first collection, of 27 belonging to the second, and of 25 belonging to the third.

Altogether the library acquired 456 additional MSS. during the year 1868. The most remarkable among them is the well-known "Sinaitic Codex," after which the library had been hankering for ten years.

The Printed Book Department was in-

creased during 1868 by 18,684 volumes.

Among the rarer of its purchases may be reckoned an interesting collection, which its owner, S. P. Poltoratsky, is said to have offered to the British Museum, consisting of a number of early Russian newspapers, issued in the reign of Peter the Great, between the years 1704 and 1724. This collection serves among other uses to complete the unique copy of the *Sankt-Peterburgskaya Vyedomost* (St. Petersburg Gazette), from the time of its commencement up to the present day, which is preserved in the library.

The reading room was used by 73,202 readers during 1868, the number in 1867 having been 61,861; and 240,811 books were consulted by them. One room in the library is set apart for newspapers, and during 1868 it contained 340 foreign journals, besides a copy of every newspaper published in Russia.

A Christian Frame of Mind.
There was once a Colonial Bishop, whose see was on the coast of Africa. He was an energetic Bishop who labored nobly, according to his views, and no man gained him.

In his immediate neighborhood resided a barbarous tribe—the Tribe of the Canoodle-Dumms. You may have heard of them. They were idolaters.

They were a simple race, with a primitive religion. They were a mild and peaceable people, and lived in perfect harmony with one another.

The Bishop said (and very properly), "I will convert these poor benighted heathens. He entered among them, and they received him hospitably. He is indebted to them for teaching him the flavor of ape, which, to this day, is always served in various forms at the episcopal banquets. There are few pleasanter dishes than ape stewed with oysters and port wine. But, on the other hand, he found them but little prepared to listen to the beauties of the religion he was about to unfold to them.

He began by entering into conversation with their Chum, or High Priest.

The Bishop learned from the Chum, or High Priest, the heads of the Canoodle-Dumms' faith.

He found that at sunrise they were summoned to prayer by the beating of a tom-tom or the blowing of a horn.

"It does not matter which," said the Chum. "How is this?" said the Bishop. "It does not matter which."

"It is this in the least matter whether it is a tom-tom or a horn," said the Chum. "Why should it?"

"Oh," said the Bishop, "this is a terrible state of things. And he thought to himself, 'It is useless, just at present, to endeavor to inculcate the beauties of Christianity. In their present state of mind they will not appreciate what I have to tell them. I will begin by endeavoring to instill a healthier moral tone, so will they the more readily apprehend the doctrine that I shall then lay before them.'

With the permission of their chief, he summoned the tribe. They came like lambs.

"Oh, Canoodle-Dumms," said he, "I am pained to find that you are indifferent as to whether a tom-tom or a horn is used to summon you to your devotions."

"We are quite indifferent," said they, with one voice, "so that we are summoned."

"But," said the Bishop, "observe, if a horn is right, a tom-tom must be wrong. So, likewise, if a tom-tom is right, a horn is out of the question."

"But, why?" said the Canoodle-Dumms. "Why, of course!"

"I see," said each Canoodle-Dummer, thoughtfully. And the members of the tribe looked askance at each other, and each edged away from his neighbor.

And the next day the tribe was divided into two mighty religious factions, those who stood up for the horn, and those who stood up for the tom-tom.

The Chum, or High Priest, endeavored, but in vain, to reconcile them. "Why," said the Chum, "should you quarrel on such a point? You are all good men. You are all amiable, sufficiently virtuous, tolerably sober, charitable, and generally well-conducted. You agree on all the vital points of your religion. Why divide on matters of unimportant detail?"

"Why, indeed?" said the tribe. And the two factions embraced.

"Stop!" said the Bishop, "I am pained beyond measure to see this. What are the ingredients of a plum pudding to the shape of the mould in which it is boiled?"

"Nothing at all," said the tribe. And they were again, and finally, divided.

He addressed the Horn party, and said, "I notice with pain that some of your horns are long, and some are short. This should not be."

"Which is right?" said the Horn party. "I am not of your religion," said the Bishop, "so I cannot undertake to offer an opinion. But one thing is certain, if one is right the other is wrong."

So the Horn party was divided into two sects—the Long Horns and the Short Horns. And the Long Horns hated the Short Horns even more than the Horn party hated the Tom-tom party. And the Short Horns returned the compliment.

The Bishop then addressed the Tom-tom party, and said, "I am grieved to see that some of your tom-toms are long and narrow, while others are short and stout. If it is right that a tom-tom should be long and narrow, it is a sin to use those that are of diametrically opposite form."

And the Tom-tom party were accordingly divided into two sects, the Long and Narrow Tom-tom, and the Short and Stout Tom-tom.

And the feud that existed between the Horn party and the Tom-tom party was as nothing compared to that which raged between the Long and Narrow Tom-tom party and the Short and Stout Tom-tom party.

The Bishop still persevered.

He pointed out to the Long Horn party that some of the long horns were sharp and some were flat.

So the Long Horn party were subdivided, and became the Sharp Long Horns and the Flat Long Horns. He pointed out to the Short Horn party that some of the short horns were cows' horns and some were rams' horns.

So the Short Horn party were subdivided, and became the Short Cow Horns and the Short Ram Horns.

The Bishop still persevered.

He pointed out to the Long and Narrow Tom-tom party that some of their long and narrow tom-toms were headed with the skin of sheep and some with the skin of pigs.

So the Long and Narrow Tom-tom party were subdivided, and became the Long and Narrow Sheep-headed Tom-tom party and the Long and Narrow Pig-headed Tom-tom party.

He pointed out to the Short and Stout Tom-tom party that some of their short and stout tom-toms were bored in with wood and some with iron. So the Short and Stout Tom-tom party were subdivided into the Short and Stout Wooden-bored Tom-tom party,

and the Short and Stout Iron-bored Tom-tom party.

And here the good Bishop took breath and rested. For by this time there was only one man to each sub-division, and the process of disintegration could be carried on no further.

Let us hope, however, that he was as successful in converting them to Christianity as he was in bringing them to a Christian frame of mind.—*London Fun.*

Just Half a Column.
From Recollections of Palmerston.
To the reporters of his speeches, the late Lord Palmerston was always kind and considerate. One active gentleman, note-book on hand, pursued him, on a particular occasion, hoping to find busy employment for his stylus, and would have been disappointed but for the special good nature of his patron. There were to be great doings at the presentation of colors to a volunteer corps, and Lord Palmerston having promised to give the affair his countenance, it was expected he would give it also his voice, and make a speech worth some pains in taking down. To this end, a practised professor of stenography, as I have said, followed to the field the noble lord, and put himself in readiness for action. But the presentation of colors went off gaily enough without speech-making, and when the ceremony was over Lord Palmerston buttoned his overcoat, and prepared like the rest of the spectators to depart. It was an awful moment. The desperate journalist went straightway to the desk political lord, and said imploringly:—"Is not your lordship going to make a speech?"

"Why, no," said his lordship, slowly; "I don't see that there's anything one can talk about." And then, turning suddenly to the reporter, he added the short, encouraging question, "Do you?"

Upon which hint the gentleman with the note-book spoke thus:—"Oh, yes, my lord; I'm sure your lordship could easily find something to say that would look well in the papers. Do, now, my lord, be so kind, if I may beg it of you as a great favor. Just half a column, or thereabouts."

"Very good," said the accommodating premier, and advancing to the front of the stage that had been erected for the beauty and fashion of the neighborhood, he began to address the crowd who had turned to go, and who turned again to listen.

"I cannot let this occasion pass away," his lordship began, "without trespassing a little on your time and patience for a few remarks."

Whatever the subject was, Lord Palmerston treated it in a speech so vivacious that nobody quarrelled with its length, although it was five or six times as long as "half a column or thereabouts." The fact, moreover, stands on record that the same speech was so remarkable an exposition of something or other, that every newspaper in England commented on it as a leading article, and it was the talk of clubs and coffee rooms for the full nine days which makes up the life of a wonder.

COULD NOT BE CREATED.—A dealer advertised eye-glasses by the aid of which a person could easily read the finest print. A well-dressed man called at the counter one day, to be fitted to a pair of spectacles.

As he remarked that he had never worn any, some were handed to him that magnified very little. He looked hard through them upon the book set before him, but he declared he could make out nothing. Another pair of stronger power were saddled upon his nose, but as unsuccessfully as before. Further trials were made until at length the almost discouraged dealer passed to him a pair which magnified more than all the rest in his stock.

The customer, quite as impatient as the merchant, tried the magnifying spectacles, and, lo! the last pair, and lowered through them at the printed page with all his might.

"Can you read that printing now?" inquired the dealer, pretty certain that he had hit it right this time, at any rate.

"Sure, not a bit," was the reply.

"Can you read at all?" asked the merchant, unable to conceal his vexation any longer.

"Rade at all, is it?" cried the customer; "there's not a single word among them that I can identify the features of."

"I say, do you know how to read?" exclaimed the dealer impatiently.

"Out wid ye!" shouted the Irishman, throwing down the spectacles in a huff, "if I could rade, what 'd I be after buying a pair of spectacles for? Ye chate the people wid the idea that yer glasses 'd help em to rade print alse; but it's a big lie, it is! Ah, ye blackguard, ye thought 'd buy 'em without tryin' 'em!"

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A agents wanted for interior coating. **JOSEPH LINDEN, Principal.**

PROPOSALS FOR STAMPED ENVELOPES AND WRAPPERS.
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
January 10, 1870.

Sealed Proposals will be received until 3 P. M. on the 1st day of MARCH, 1870, for furnishing the "Stamped Envelopes" and "Newspaper Wrappers" which this Department may require during a period of four years, commencing 1st of July, 1870, viz.:

STAMPED ENVELOPES.
No. 1. Note size, 3 1/2 by 4 1/2 inches, of white paper.
No. 2. Ordinary letter size, 3 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches, of white, buff, canary, or cream-colored paper, or in such proportion of either as may be required.

No. 3. Full letter size (ungummed on flap, for circulars), 5 1/2 by 8 1/2 inches, of the same colors as No. 2, and under a like condition as to the proportion of each.

No. 4. Full letter size, 3 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches, of same colors as No. 2, and under a like condition as to the proportion of each.

No. 5. Extra letter size (ungummed on flap, for circulars), 5 1/2 by 8 1/2 inches, of the same colors as No. 2, and under a like condition as to the proportion of each.

No. 6. Extra official size, 4 1/2 by 9 1/2 inches, of same colors as No. 2, and under a like condition as to the proportion of each.

No. 7. Official size, 3 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches, of same colors as No. 2, and under a like condition as to the proportion of each.

No. 8. Extra official size, 4 1/2 by 9 1/2 inches, of same colors as No. 2, and under a like condition as to the proportion of each.

The above envelopes and wrappers to be embossed with postage stamps of such denominations, styles, and colors, and to bear such printing on the face, and to be made in the most thorough manner, of paper of approved quality, marked quality, and for the purpose, with such water marks or other devices to prevent imitation as the Postmaster-General may direct.

The envelopes to be thoroughly and perfectly gummed, the gumming on the flap of each (except for circulars) to be put on not less than half an inch in width of the entire length. The wrappers to be gummed not less than three-fourths of an inch in width across the end.

The stamped envelopes must be handed in parcels of twenty-five, and packed in strong pasteboard or straw boxes, each to contain not less than a hundred and fifty of the letter or extra letter size, and each of the official or extra official size, separately. The newspaper wrappers to be packed in boxes to contain not less than a hundred and fifty each. The boxes are to be wrapped and sealed, or securely fastened in strong manilla paper, so as to safely bear transportation by mail for delivery to Postmasters. When the thousand or more envelopes are required to fill the order of a postmaster, the straw or pasteboard boxes containing the same must be packed in strong wooden cases, well strapped with hoop-iron, and addressed; but when less than two thousand are required, proper labels of direction, to be furnished by an agent of the Department, must be placed upon each package by the contractor. Wooden cases, containing envelopes or wrappers to be transported by water routes, must be provided with suitable water-proofing. The whole to be done under the inspection and direction of an agent of the Department.

The envelopes and wrappers must be furnished and delivered with all reasonable despatch, complete in all respects, ready for use, and in such quantities as may be required by the daily orders of postmasters; the deliveries to be made either at the Post Office Department, Washington, D. C., or at the office of an agent duly authorized to inspect and receive the same; the place of delivery to be at the option of the Postmaster-General, and the cost of delivering as well as all expense of packing, addressing, labeling, and water-proofing, to be paid by the contractor.

Bidders are notified that the Department will require, as a condition of the contract, that the envelopes and wrappers shall be manufactured and stored in such manner as to ensure security against loss by fire or theft. The manufacturer must at all times be ready to furnish to the inspection of an agent of the Department, who will require the stipulations of the contract to be faithfully observed.

The dies for embossing the postage stamps on the envelopes and wrappers must be executed to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General, in the best style, and they are to be provided, renewed, and kept in the best order, at the expense of the contractor. The Department reserves the right of requiring new dies for any stamps, or denominations of stamps not now used, and any changes of dies or colors shall be made without payment.

Specimens of the stamped envelopes and wrappers now in use may be seen at any of the principal post offices, but these specimens are not to be regarded as a standard for the new contract; bidders are therefore invited to submit samples of other different qualities and styles, including the paper proposed as well as the manufactured envelopes, wrappers, and boxes, and make their bids accordingly.

PROPOSALS.
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE ERECTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.
PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17, 1870.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received for the following work and materials required in the execution of the WALNUT Street portion of the PUBLIC BUILDINGS, to wit:—

For all the excavations, including the trenches for the foundations. The price to be stated per cubic yard, which is to cover all digging, hauling away the surplus earth, and cutting down and removing whatever trees may come in the way of the excavations, without extra measurement or allowance.

For taking down the terrace wall, cleaning the bricks, and piling them up adjacent to the buildings, taking down the iron railings, the gate piers, the coping of the wall and the steps, and depositing them on the ground, and removing all rubbish occasioned by the same. The price for this portion of the work to be stated in gross.

For concreting the entire foundation of the buildings with small broken stone, and cement, mortar, and grout, in conformity with the specifications. The depth of the concrete to be three feet, and the lateral dimensions to conform to the plans. The price to be stated per cubic foot, and to include all material and labor.

For furnishing and delivering large-size building stone, the price to be stated per perch of 39 cubic feet, measured in the walls. Also, for select building stone, averaging 3 by 7 feet, and from 19 to 19 inches thick; the price for the same to be stated per cubic foot, delivered on the ground.

For building all the cellar walls, and the outside walls of the basement story, as high as the level line of the pavement, according to the plans and specifications. The price to be stated per perch of 22 cubic feet, laid in the walls, without extra measurement, and to include all labor and all materials except stone.

The contract or contracts will be awarded to the best and the lowest bidder or bidders, who will be required to give approved security for the faithful performance of the same.

The plans and specifications may be seen at the office of the Architect, Mr. JOHN MCARTHUR, JR., No. 305 S. SIXTH STREET.

The proposals to be sealed and endorsed "Proposals for Public Buildings," and addressed to JAMES V. WATSON, Chairman of the Committee on Contracts, and to be left at the office of the Commissioners of Public Buildings, in the new Court House, SIXTH STREET, below Chestnut, on the 14th day of February next, morning, between the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock A. M., at which time the bids will be opened, in the presence of such bidders as may wish to attend.

By order of the Committee on Contracts.
H. C. PUGH, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF FAIRMOUNT PARK, No. 234 S. FIFTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17, 1870.

PROPOSALS for the privilege of running Park Carriages for the year 1870 from stands within the Park through its entire limits will be received at this office until the 1st day of February, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The conditions and stipulations upon which proposals will be received may be seen at this office between the hours of 9 A. M. and 5 P. M.

By order of the Committee on Supervision and Police.
DAVID J. HOLLEY, Secretary Park Commission.

OFFICE OF THE SOUTH STREET BRIDGE COMMISSIONER, No. 234 S. FIFTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17, 1870.

Sealed Proposals for erecting a bridge over the river Schuylkill at South street, between the bridge of the Commission, in the Department of Survey, No. 234 S. FIFTH STREET, until 10 o'clock A. M. of the 1st day of MARCH, 1870, for a contract of a wrought iron drawbridge, with Murphy's modification of the Pratt truss. To have cast-iron piers in river, and stone abutments, with approaches of retaining walls, arches of brick, and iron girders, as described in the specifications. The entire length of the bridge to be 240 feet, the truss spans to be 150 feet each, with pivot draw, giving an opening of 77 feet on each side.

The proposal to be for a bridge to be accompanied by a bond with two approved sureties to an amount of \$50,000, to be retained as security for the work proceeds, until the same, inclusive of the \$50,000 noted in bond, shall amount to fifteen per cent of the contract price, after which the current estimates will be paid in full.

Plans may be seen and specifications obtained at the office of the Commission on and after the 26th instant.

15c
MORRIS A. DROPSIE, President of the Commission.

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